

# Senuri Wijenayake

PhD Candidate | Human Computer Interaction Group, University of Melbourne

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## PROFILE

I am a PhD Candidate in Human-Computer Interaction and Social Computing, primarily investigating how online group settings can be designed accounting for socio-psychological influences. I am passionate about transforming ideas into products and have prior experience leading cross-functional teams with 20+ members, implementing Scrum software management processes, and directly communicating with international clients in product pitches. I also enjoy teaching and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students and conducting seminars to raise awareness of higher education opportunities to students in rural Sri Lanka. I am currently seeking an internship that will provide an opportunity to fulfill my passion in product engineering, with new challenges and rewarding experiences.

## EDUCATION

### PhD in Computer Science (expected completion in December 2021)

Jul 2018 – Present

School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne, Australia.

**Thesis:** Understanding Dynamics of Online Social Conformity

**Supervised By:** Dr. Jorge Goncalves and Prof. Vassilis Kostakos

### BSc. (Hons) Information Technology

May 2013 – Oct 2017

Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

#### Highlights:

- **Gold Medal for the Best Academic Performance** for the 2017 at the BSc. (Hons) IT Examinations.
- **Gold Medal for the Most Outstanding Student of University of Moratuwa** for 2017 for outstanding academic performance, research contribution, volunteer work and extra-curricular activities.

### CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants), UK

Sep 2011 – Nov 2015

**Courses Completed:** Strategic Management, Financial Strategy, Risk Management, Accounting, Law, Human Resources

## EXPERIENCE

### Academic Tutor

Jan 2019 – Present

School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne, Australia.

- Experience conducting both physical and online tutorials for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Received the **Excellence in Tutoring Award** in recognition of the excellent contribution to tutoring in School of Computing and Information Systems in 2019.
- Mentoring a postgraduate [HCI Project \(INFO90008\)](#) investigating social conformity in online group chatting environments.
- **Course Modules Tutored:**
  - Evaluating User Experience (INFO90004)
  - Fundamentals of Interaction Design (INFO10003)
  - Social Computing (INFO90007)
- **Certifications:**
  - Melbourne Teaching Certificate for Graduate Researchers awarded by University of Melbourne.
  - Foundations of Teaching and Learning for Graduate Researchers awarded by University of Melbourne.

### Full Stack Developer, Team Lead

Aug 2017 – Jun 2018

Tracified, 99X Technology, Sri Lanka.

- Based on the concept “Trust Through Traceability”, [Tracified](#) can be used by vendors of premium products (e.g., organic food, gems) to provide transparency into their product’s journey from its origin to the marketplace ([demo](#)).
- **Winner of Gold Award** in Retail and Supply Chain Management at the **National Best Quality Software Awards** (NBQSA) Sri Lanka in 2017.
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Leading a 20+ team of Developers, UX Engineers and Quality Assurance Engineers and overseeing the scrum activities as the team's Scrum Master.
  - Guiding the product engineering process from product designing to deployment and on-site training of clients.
  - Communicating with current and potential clients for requirement gathering, customisations and troubleshooting.
  - Software development using TypeScript, NodeJs and AngularJs.

PicaSix, 99X Technology, Sri Lanka.

- Developed a web-based supply chain management system for PicaSix to combine and align process of complex supply chains between importers, suppliers, production, wholesalers and end-consumers.
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Software development using AngularJs, JavaScript, HTML, CSS and Ruby on Rails.
  - Implementing automated frontend testing using Protractor and compiled technical documentation for the setup.
  - Experience in Scrum activities and communicating with Product Owner and client for requirement gathering, customisations and technical walk-throughs.

**Undergraduate Developer****Aug 2014 – May 2015**

E-kilder, Embla Software Innovations, Sri Lanka.

- Developed an interactive website to digitise handwritten information of Norwegian church books through crowdsourcing and use that information to enable users to discover and graphically illustrate their family trees.
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Full stack software development using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, C#, Entity Framework and SQL Server.
  - Communicating with the Product Owner and the Business Analyst for requirement gathering, customisations and technical walk-throughs.

**PUBLICATIONS****Quantifying the Effect of Social Presence on Online Social Conformity****CSCW 2020**

**S. Wijenayake**, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves

Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 4 (CSCW), 55:1 - 55:22. [pdf]

**Bots for Research: Minimising the Experimenter Effect****CHI 2020**

**S. Wijenayake**, N. van Berkel, J. Goncalves

International Workshop on Detection and Design for Cognitive Biases in People and Computing Systems (CHI'20). [pdf]

**Impact of Contextual and Personal Determinants on Online Social Conformity****CHB 2020**

**S. Wijenayake**, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves

**Computers in Human Behaviour**, 108: 106302. [pdf]

**Measuring the Effects of Gender on Online Social Conformity****CSCW 2019**

**S. Wijenayake**, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves

Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 3 (CSCW), 145:1 - 145:24. [pdf]

**Crowdsourcing Perceptions of Fair Predictors for Machine Learning: A Recidivism Case Study****CSCW 2019**

N. van Berkel, J. Goncalves, D. Hettiachchi, **S. Wijenayake**, R.M. Kelly, V. Kostakos

Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 3 (CSCW), 28:1 – 28:22. [pdf]

**Improving Accuracy in Mobile Human Contributions: An Overview****UbiComp 2018**

N. van Berkel, M. Budde, **S. Wijenayake**, J. Goncalves

Adjunct Proceedings of the ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp'18 Adj.), 594 – 599. [pdf]

**Predicting Tie Strength between Facebook Friends to Improve Accuracy in Travel Recommendation Systems****PACIS 2018**

**S. Wijenayake**, S. Ganiachchi, J. Wijekoon, S. Ahangama

Proceedings of the Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems 2018 (PACIS'18), 246:1 - 246:24. [pdf]

**A Decision Tree Approach to Predicting Recidivism in Domestic Violence****PAKDD 2018**

**S. Wijenayake**, T. Graham, P. Christen

Proceedings of the Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD'18), pp. 3 - 15. Springer, Cham. [pdf]

**A Context Aware & Personalized Multiple Location Trip Planner Using Facebook Check-ins of a User****ICTER 2017**

**S. Wijenayake**, S. Ganiachchi, J. Wijekoon, S. Ahangama

Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer'17). [pdf]

**Creation of Semantic Location Profiles using Bayes, Rule-Based, Trees and Meta Classification Approaches****ICNC-FSKD 2017**

S. Ganiachchi, **S. Wijenayake**, J. Wijekoon, S. Ahangama

Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Natural Computation, Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (ICNC-FSKD 2017), 1604 – 1609. [pdf]

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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- **Journal & Conference Reviewing**

- CHI, CSCW, Computers in Human Behavior, INTERACT, OzCHI.

- **Conference Organisation**

- **Student Volunteer** for ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW'20).
- **Social Media Co-chair** for Australian Conference on Human-Computer Interaction ([OzCHI 2020](#)).
- **Student Volunteer** at CIS Doctoral Colloquium 2018 organised by the University of Melbourne.

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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- **Awards**

- **Excellence in Tutoring Award** offered by the School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne in recognition for an excellent contribution to tutoring in 2019.
- **Best Paper Award** at the Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD'18) for paper titled "*A Decision Tree Approach to Predicting Recidivism in Domestic Violence*" [[pdf](#)].
- **Gold Award** in Retail and Supply Chain Management at the **National Best Quality Software Awards** (NBQSA) Sri Lanka in 2017, for software project "[Tracified](#)".
- **Merit Award** in Culture and Tourism at the **e-Swabhimani'17** organised by ICTA Sri Lanka in 2017, for undergraduate research project "TravelSL".

- **Scholarships**

- **Rowden White Scholarship** awarded based on academic merit by University of Melbourne for year 2018.
- **Melbourne Research Scholarship** offered by University of Melbourne (2018 – present).
- **Conference Travel Scholarship** offered by the Melbourne School of Engineering & School of Computing and Information Systems (2019, 2020).

## VOLUNTARY WORK

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### Motivational Speaker & Mentor

May 2015 - Present

- Conducting online seminars to undergraduate students at University of Moratuwa on international opportunities for higher education (2018 - present).
- Conducting seminars to rural schools in Sri Lanka on higher education opportunities (2015 - 2017).
- Mentoring high school students at Visakha Vidyalaya, Sri Lanka on their GCE Advanced Level IT Projects in 2017.

### Committee Member (Media & Communications)

May 2019 - Present

Sri Lankan Graduates' Society, University of Melbourne, Australia.

### Editor in Chief – FIT Chronicle

Jan 2015 – Aug 2017

Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

- FIT Chronicle - the **academic magazine of the Faculty of IT**, University of Moratuwa - is the outcome of combined effort from the faculty and students, where I had the privilege of working together with an extremely committed editorial team, to revamp the magazine with a dash of life and pride.
- Under my leadership, the FIT Chronicle brought the spotlight onto **faculty events, academic programs, student achievements, student extracurricular activities** with a new addition of a "students' corner" to exhibit composing talents and artistic insight of FIT students.

See FIT Chronicle: [2015 Edition](#) [2016 Edition](#)